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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/161 of 20 December 1993. It covers developments that have occurred in Central America since my last report (A/48/586) was submitted to the General Assembly on 11 November 1993, as well as progress achieved by the region's countries in the areas of peace, freedom, democracy and development.

2. Since 1987, the General Assembly has been carefully following the situation in Central America and has commended the efforts of the peoples and Governments of the region to establish and consolidate peace. At the same time it has urged them to continue their efforts to achieve a firm and lasting peace in Central America. Also, it has expressed its support for the decision of the Central American Presidents in the Tegucigalpa Protocol 1/ to declare Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development, and it has encouraged the steps taken by the Central American countries to consolidate their progress towards democracy, peace, cooperation and unconditional respect for human rights.

3. In the late 1980s, with the authorization of the Security Council, the United Nations undertook major peace-keeping missions in Central America, including the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) (November 1989-January 1992) and the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) (beginning in July 1991). For its part, the General Assembly authorized the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Electoral Process in Nicaragua (ONUVEN) (August 1989-April 1990) and, more recently, on 19 September 1994, it established a United Nations Mission for the Verification

of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), on the basis of the recommendations contained in my report of 18 August 1984 (A/48/985).

4. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly will consider a series of reports of the Secretary-General, including those on international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters (A/49/); on assistance for the reconstruction and development of El Salvador (A/49/) and on the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (A/49/). It will also consider the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which contains a section dealing with regional developments in the Americas and the Caribbean (A/49/12, paras. 108-116); the report of the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) (A/49/); and the report on the situation of human rights in El Salvador (A/49/).

II. THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PROCESS

5. In the 1980s Central America had to face a number of difficult situations, but the early 1990s generated improved prospects for the achievement of the goals of peace, democratization, reconciliation, development and justice set out by the Governments of the region. Central American Governments are aware that positive developments such as the end of the cold war and the easing of armed conflicts in the region have not removed all obstacles to the realization of the goals of the Esquipulas II process. 2/

6. The Central American countries have demonstrated their commitment to the strengthening of democratic institutions. Evidence of these endeavours to achieve democratization is the fact that four countries of the region have held free, democratic elections. Mr. Carlos Roberto Reina became President of Honduras on 27 January 1994, Mr. José María Figueres President of Costa Rica on 8 May, Mr. Armando Calderón Sol President of El Salvador on 1 June and Mr. Ernesto Pérez Balladares President of Panama on 1 September. It should be noted that events in Guatemala leading to the election of Mr. Ramiro de León Carpio on 6 June 1993 also testified to the widespread support for the rule of law.

7. Moreover, in all Central American countries, human rights organizations have been pressing Governments to fulfil their responsibility in the observance and protection of human rights. The increased assertiveness of civil society is also evidenced by the number and vigour of organizations and professional associations which are generating a new, more diversified political process.

8. As part of the efforts to strengthen the democratic process in Central America, the General Assembly, in resolution 48/161, paragraphs 16 and 17, expressed support for the efforts that the Government of Nicaragua was making to consolidate peace, and endorsed the provision concerning exceptional circumstances enabling the international community and funding agencies to provide their support for the rehabilitation and strengthening of democracy in that country. It also welcomed with interest the initiative by the Government of Nicaragua concerning the establishment of a group of friendly countries which

would play a particularly important role in supporting the reactivation of the social development of Nicaragua, thus strengthening its democratic and institutional structures, and requested the Secretary-General to give his full support to that initiative.

9. On the basis of that initiative and after a series of consultations, a small group of countries was established to assess the progress made by the country and the problems it faced. This Support Group for Nicaragua, composed of Canada, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden, was established on 12 May 1994, with the office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nicaragua serving as its technical secretariat.

10. On 16 and 17 June 1994, the Consultative Group to assist the Government of Nicaragua held a meeting in Paris, organized by the World Bank, at which the Support Group for Nicaragua submitted a report. The report referred to the progress made in the political field. Emphasis was placed on the importance of pursuing efforts to improve guarantees of property rights and a pledge was made to continue to provide support for the consolidation of the democratic process in that country among the members of the international community through dialogue.

11. A further development in the democratization efforts was the holding of the second International Conference of Newly Restored Democracies in Managua, Nicaragua, from 4 to 6 July 1994. In the Final Declaration, the participants recognized, inter alia, the value of democracies as an integral part of the political processes of reconciliation and development in national societies and of peace and security in the international community, and as a component of a broader, integrated concept of security.

Regional cooperation and integration

12. To design and implement the ambitious programme for economic, social and institutional development established at the fourteenth summit meeting of Central American Presidents held in Guatemala in October 1993, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the region convened an international technical meeting in New York on 16 November 1993. The meeting was co-sponsored by UNDP and received assistance from the Central American Integration System (SICA). It provided an opportunity for consultations to be held between the countries of the region and the international community on ways of consolidating peace in Central America and on the prospects for international cooperation.

13. In 1994 the Governments of Central America organized several regional conferences which broadened the scope of national economic, social and institutional development efforts. With a view to expanding and intensifying regional cooperation and integration, the Central American Presidents and the Prime Minister of Belize as an observer held the fifteenth summit meeting of Central American Presidents at Guácimo, Costa Rica, on 20 August 1994. In the Declaration of Guácimo (A/49/340-S/1994/1994, Annex), the Presidents returned to the path first laid out at the Tegucigalpa summit, held in December 1991, leading to the human development of Central American society from an integral perspective and geared to meeting the basic needs of the population and overcoming critical poverty. Thus, Central American integration efforts were

given a new social dimension based on a strategy of sustainable development which gives priority to five major themes, namely, policy-making, democracy and peace; integration and improvement of social conditions; economic integration and modernization of national infrastructure; preservation of the physical and moral environment; and government.

14. At the request of the countries members of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica, in February 1994 endorsing the approach for the post-CIREFCA phase proposed jointly by UNHCR and UNDP, its key features being the United Nations Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace", 3/ the national and local strategies for sustainable human development proposed by UNDP and the three-pronged strategy (prevention, emergency preparedness and durable solutions) proposed by UNHCR for Central America.

15. The same meeting recommended that a third and final international meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees be held, at which not only would the CIREFCA process be formally concluded but renewed commitments would be made to launch strategies for sustainable human development in Central America that include the outstanding issue of uprooted persons. That meeting took place in Mexico City on 28 and 29 June. The Governments of the convening States, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and programmes, donors and intergovernmental organizations represented at the meeting adopted a "Declaration of Commitments" designed to benefit uprooted population groups and victims of the conflicts and those suffering from extreme poverty, as part of the process of consolidating peace in Central America (A/49/).

16. The Central American Presidents, aware as they are of the interdependence of environmental conservation and the quality of life of peoples, decided to hold a summit meeting on the environment in Managua on 12 and 13 October 1994, at which they would undertake an in-depth examination of the question of an Alliance for Sustainable Development with a view to presenting it to the world as a Central American agenda. With that proposal, the Presidents are seeking to launch a process of progressive change in the quality of life of the population, in which development will revolve around the human person who will be its prime beneficiary, with due regard to preserving the ecological balance. They also agreed to hold the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America at Tegucigalpa, Honduras on 24 and 25 October 1994.

17. The institutions for Central American integration have also continued to develop. The General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA) convened a series of technical meetings that were instrumental in strengthening both the social and the economic subsystems, in promoting the involvement of the society at large and in organizing the meetings of Presidents and of Ministers for Foreign Affairs. With the support of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) ratification of the Guatemala Protocol, signed in October 1993, is also preceding as a precondition for its entry into force.

18. The Central American Bank for Economic Integration is being further strengthened with the support both of Central American Governments and

extraregional partners. The Central American Court of Justice, for its part, is beginning to perform the functions for which it was established and institutional development is proceeding apace in the Central American Parliament, now in its third year of operation.

Extraregional cooperation

19. During the reporting period, the countries of Central America continued to underscore the role that the international community had played and should continue to play in promoting commitment to the goals of peace, freedom, democracy and development.

20. In 1994, Central America fostered international cooperation in many ways. On 14 and 15 June the Heads of State and Government of the 21 Ibero-American countries met in Cartagena, Colombia, and considered issues relating to trade and integration, regarded as vital elements in the equitable development of the peoples of Ibero-America. At the meeting, the continuing efforts of the Central American countries to consolidate the processes of democratization and integration, which need support from the international community, were recognized. Attention was again drawn to the initiative designed to make Central America a model of sustainable development. Emphasis was placed on the importance for the Ibero-American countries of participating as extraregional partners in the Central American Bank for Economic Integration in support of that initiative.

21. The "San José X" Ministerial Conference between the countries of the European Union, Central America and Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as cooperating countries was held in Athens, Greece, on 28 and 29 March 1994. Attention was drawn to the measures taken by Central America to attain a new stage of development made possible by a successful process of pacification and consolidation of democratic institutions. The Ministers of the European Union indicated that they were ready to give high priority to the strengthening of institutions promoting economic integration. They noted with satisfaction the establishment, within the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, of a Trust Fund designed to increase the region's export capacity (FOEXCA).

22. Another development in international cooperation was the holding on 9 and 10 September 1994 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, of the eighth summit meeting of the Rio Group, which recognized the Central American community's achievements in the fields of economic and social development and called on the international community to complement the efforts of the countries undergoing internal pacification and reconstruction. It noted with satisfaction the increase in trade flows and in economic relations resulting from bilateral free-trade agreements between several Latin American countries. Among them was the signing of the Free Trade Agreement of the Group of Three, which establishes new forms of economic and commercial cooperation between Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, and also the agreements concluded between those countries and those of Central America.

23. International financial institutions - the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) - continued to take part in

a structured dialogue between the international community and the Central American countries. The Regional Consultative Group for Central America, coordinated by the Inter-American Development Bank, held a technical and financial meeting on the subject of electric power, one of the four priority areas in the agreed terms of reference of this Consultative Group. Consultations were also held between the international financial institutions, the United Nations system and members of the donor community with a view to devising procedures for coordinating external cooperation, especially in cases where cooperation agendas moved from emergency to development assistance.

24. The Organization of American States (OAS) continued to be involved in consolidating and establishing institutional order in Nicaragua, through the activities of the OAS International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV/OAS). The objectives of CIAV/OAS are to verify observance of the rights and guarantees of those affected by the conflict in the last decade, assist in their reintegration by helping to establish stable communities and support the strengthening of democratic institutions. To achieve these objectives a programme for the verification of rights and guarantees has been implemented; it includes registering and follow-up of complaints of human rights violations and mediation in disputes that have arisen between various groups in the country, with a view to helping to settle them. OAS has taken part in the Tripartite Commission set up by the Government of Nicaragua to ensure observance of human rights. It has also carried out infrastructure and production projects, and it took part in the observation of the regional elections on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast.

III. UNITED NATIONS

25. As mentioned in the introduction, the United Nations has continued to support Central American countries in their efforts to consolidate peace, democracy and development within the mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General and United Nations programmes and agencies. Under the authority conferred on me by the Security Council, I have continued to carry out the verification and good offices mandate entrusted to ONUSAL. Under the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council, I have also continued to exercise my good offices in the search for a negotiated settlement of the civil conflict in Guatemala. United Nations operational activities have been carried out within both national and regional programmes, such as the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC) and the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA).

United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL)

26. Since I submitted my report to the General Assembly on the situation in Central America (A/46/586), I have kept the Security Council regularly informed about the work of ONUSAL. In addition, I have transmitted the periodic reports of the Director of the Human Rights Division of ONUSAL in annexes to my notes concerning his activities of 18 January, 5 April and 28 July 1994 (A/49/59-S/1994/47, A/49/116-S/1994/385 and A/49/281-S/1994/886). I also submitted five reports on the activities of the Electoral Division of ONUSAL (S/26606, S/1994/179, S/1994/304, S/1994/375 and S/1994/536) relating to the elections

which were held in March and April 1994 and resulted in the election of President Armando Calderón Sol.

27. Tangible progress has certainly been made since the signing of the Peace Accords between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN). As I stated in my report on the work of the Organization (A/49/1, para. 506), "the peace process in El Salvador has advanced steadily, but distortions have occurred and progress has been slow in certain areas, particularly public security and reintegration programmes". The elections held this year are a key element in the consolidation of peace and security in El Salvador. They were the first elections in which the FMLN participated as a political party, and the United Nations, through the Electoral Division of ONUSAL, provided assistance with voter registration as well as monitoring the electoral process as a whole.

28. Since the elections ONUSAL has concentrated on verification of compliance with the provisions of the Peace Accords still outstanding relating to the armed forces and public security (deployment of the National Civil Police, demobilization of the National Police, restructuring of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, regulatory machinery, irregularities in the National Civil Police and the functioning of the National Public Security Academy, and support for increased recruitment to the National Civil Police) and the land transfer programme. On 19 May 1994 the parties agreed on a new revised timetable for resolution of the most important issues. In addition, ONUSAL has continued its efforts to provide assistance in the promotion of respect for human rights, the reform of the judiciary, and the solution of fundamental socio-economic problems.

29. On 26 May 1994, by resolution 920 (1994), the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of ONUSAL until 30 November 1994. It also requested me to report to the Council no later than 31 August 1994 on compliance with the timetable and on other relevant issues including measures undertaken to contain the costs of ONUSAL. It further requested me to report by 1 November 1994 on the completion of the mandate of ONUSAL and on the progressive withdrawal of its personnel. The Council invited me, in consultation with the specialized agencies, to prepare modalities for assistance to El Salvador, within the framework of the Peace Accords, for the post-ONUSAL period.

30. In my report to the Security Council of 26 August 1994 (S/1994/1000) I stated that since his inauguration on 1 June 1994 President Calderón had taken steps to ensure compliance with the outstanding provisions of the Peace Accords. However, there has been little progress in the effective transfer of land to former combatants of the Armed Forces of El Salvador (FAES) and the FMLN as well as to landholders, as contemplated in the peace agreements. Delays in the transfer of land are impeding the reintegration of potential beneficiaries into productive activities and are creating other kinds of problems that are likely to complicate the implementation of the agreements. On the reintegration programmes ONUSAL has continued to work with the parties and with UNDP on the implementation of the medium-term programmes for former combatants of the armed forces and FMLN. External assistance is essential in this matter. Another outstanding issue is implementation of some of the recommendations of the

Commission on the Truth, such as, for example, the ratification of international human rights instruments.

31. On 16 September 1994 the President of the Security Council reaffirmed in a statement (S/PRST/1994/54) the commitment of the United Nations to verify the implementation of the Peace Accords. President Calderón Sol, recently issued an appeal for renewal of the mandate of ONUSAL, as did the FMLN.

The peace process in Guatemala

32. The status of the negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) has improved considerably since the submission of my last report on the situation in Central America (A/48/586). On 17 January 1994 I informed the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (A/49/61-S/1994/53) that, after consultations with both parties, I convened a preliminary meeting which was held from 6 to 9 January 1994 in Mexico City. This meeting concluded with the signing on 10 January of a framework agreement for the resumption of the negotiating process between the Government of Guatemala and the URNG, in which the parties established a new negotiating framework for reaching an agreement on a firm and lasting peace at an early date (ibid., annex).

33. The new agreement retains some of the features of the previous process, especially the negotiation agenda adopted in April 1991, but introduces some important changes. The parties decided to propose the creation of an Assembly of the Civil Society with the mandate to facilitate the negotiations by promoting consensus among the various sectors of the civil society on a number of key issues of the negotiation agenda. In addition, the parties requested me to appoint a representative to serve as Moderator of the negotiations and they agreed that the United Nations should be asked to verify the implementation of all agreements reached between them. On 9 February 1994 I appointed Mr. Jean Arnault as Moderator of the negotiations, the course of which he had been following since 1992 as a United Nations Observer.

34. On 8 April 1994 I again reported to the General Assembly and the Security Council on the progress of the peace process in Guatemala, informing them that the first round of negotiations held since the adoption of the Framework Agreement had been concluded on 29 March with the signing, at Mexico City, of a Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and an agreement on a timetable for the negotiation of a firm and lasting peace in Guatemala (A/48/928-S/1994/448, annexes I and II). In the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights the parties requested the United Nations to organize a mission as quickly as possible to verify the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement without waiting for firm and lasting peace to be signed and for a cease-fire to take effect. At the end of April 1994, I dispatched a preliminary mission to Guatemala with the task of determining the requirements for United Nations verification of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights. The mission concluded that United Nations verification of the Comprehensive Agreement might make a decisive contribution to the efforts of the Government and people of Guatemala to improve the human rights situation. It further concluded that despite the risks inherent in the continuation of the armed conflict, the necessary conditions existed for the mission to carry out its mandate.

35. On 28 June 1994 I informed the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/48/954-S/1994/751) that the talks on the agenda item relating to the resettlement of the population groups uprooted by the armed conflict had been successfully concluded with the signing of an Agreement at Oslo on 17 June 1994 (ibid., annex I). I reported further that a week later, on 23 June 1994, the parties signed an Agreement on the establishment of a Commission to clarify past human rights violations and acts of violence that have inflicted suffering on the Guatemalan people (ibid., annex II). Both Agreements will enter into force upon the signing of an agreement for a firm and lasting peace denoting the culmination of the negotiation process. However, the parties agreed in both cases that preparatory work should begin earlier in order to expedite full implementation of the Agreements once they enter into force.

36. The signing of five agreements concluded between January and June 1994, some on very sensitive issues that profoundly affected the Guatemalan people, has demonstrated the commitment of the Guatemalan Government and the URNG to complete their ambitious negotiating programme. In that context and bearing in mind the conclusions of the preliminary mission mentioned in paragraph 34, I decided to recommend to Member States the establishment of a mission of verification of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights (A/48/985). I expressed the view that in addition to contributing to the efforts to protect human rights, the verification mission would give impetus to the peace process by promoting full compliance with the Comprehensive Agreement and thereby strengthening the confidence of the parties and the Guatemalan people in the agreements reached at the negotiating table. On 19 September the General Assembly, by resolution 48/267 (A/48/RES/267), established the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) for an initial period of six months.

37. After a three-month interval, the parties decided to resume negotiations on 20 October 1994 by considering the next item on the negotiation agenda, namely, "Identity and rights of the indigenous populations". It is essential, with regard to this item and the remaining agenda items, that the parties should demonstrate the seriousness and flexibility which made possible the signing of three major substantive agreements between March and June 1994, thus consolidating the negotiating process and national and international confidence in the prospects for an early establishment of a lasting peace in Guatemala. By agreeing to the deployment of MINUGUA before the signing of a peace agreement between the Government of Guatemala and the URNG, the international community indicated its readiness to support Guatemalan efforts to achieve peace and strengthen democracy and expressed confidence in the will of the parties to fulfil their commitment to agree on a firm and lasting peace at the earliest possible date. For my part, I shall continue my efforts, in conformity with the mandates conferred upon me by the Member States, to ensure that that commitment becomes a reality.

United Nations operational activities

38. United Nations support to Central America through operational activities has remained comprehensive and diversified. In addition to continuing its support of regional processes, at the national level and at the request of the

Governments concerned the United Nations operational system has concentrated its efforts in the following areas: (a) poverty alleviation, with emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors, particularly with respect to health, housing, education, income-generating activities and social investment schemes; (b) economic reform and public sector policies and management; (c) emergency and development assistance aimed at the repatriation of refugees, and reintegration of demobilized combatants, refugees and displaced people in the countries requiring such assistance; (d) strengthening of democratic institutions through support to electoral processes as well as the courts, parliaments and human rights ombudsmen; (e) environmental protection and promotion of sustainable development policies, legislation and practices; (f) population-related programmes; and (g) natural disaster prevention and rehabilitation. As I stated in my previous report (A/48/586), after concentrating their efforts on ensuring economic stabilization and starting a structural adjustment process, the Bretton Woods institutions are now focusing on the social sectors and questions of the modernization of the State.

39. At the regional level the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, now in its last year, has continued to serve as a framework for efforts to consolidate a firm and lasting peace through the promotion of development programmes and projects. The initial mandate of the Special Plan, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-second session in 1988 (resolution 42/231 of 12 May 1988), was extended for another period of three years at the forty-fifth session (resolution 45/231). As part of the new Central American development strategy a new and up-to-date regional programme is being prepared, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/161 of 20 December 1993. Basically, the new proposal suggests cooperation for the consolidation of peace in the new Central American context. It reflects a shift of emphasis from an emergency programme to a sustainable human development strategy in areas or towns designated by the countries themselves, in order to consolidate the peace and eliminate extreme poverty (see para. 16) by means of programmes and projects harmonized with national and regional macroeconomic and sectoral policies.

40. In the economic field, in addition to the ongoing policy dialogue carried out through the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), technical cooperation has continued to be provided in order to improve the region's ability to compete in the world economy. Areas of concentration have been agricultural development, regional economic integration and regional integration institutions. Following the signature of the Protocol to the Treaty of Economic Integration in October 1993, economic sectoral policies and institutional reforms must receive increased attention.

41. Social development is another important area of cooperation. The efforts are still being focused on attainment of the objectives of the Tegucigalpa Agreement on Human Development, Childhood and Youth. Special emphasis has been placed on the fight against poverty, the formulation of investment programmes and the provision of key basic services, notably in the fields of health, education and culture, nutrition and feeding. Joint activities are being carried out in this area by UNDP, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

42. The United Nations system has also cooperated with the Central American Governments and regional organizations in defining a Central American agenda for sustainable development. A continuing effort will be made to incorporate environmental factors fully into the process of development, the management of natural resources and institution-building.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

43. From the end of 1993 until the submission of this report Central America has demonstrated its interest in strengthening and consolidating political institutions by peaceful and democratic means. The elections held in five countries of the region have provided examples of this. These efforts have enjoyed the active collaboration of the international community through several cooperation channels, including the United Nations system itself. With regard to the peace process in El Salvador, the commitments entered into by the parties in the 1992 Peace Accords are being successfully fulfilled. I hope that Salvadorian institutions will take control of their own political destiny as soon as possible. In Nicaragua, the Support Group has helped to strengthen the international community's dialogue with Nicaraguan institutions. In the case of Guatemala, an encouraging peace process has already begun, with its first steps marked by the signing of several agreements and the establishment of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). I hope that the political will of the parties will in due course produce a firm and lasting peace. It is important for the international community to maintain and strengthen its support to Central America. For my part, I am ready to continue to play the active role entrusted to me by the General Assembly.

Notes

1/ A/46/829-S/23310, annex III; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1991, document S/23310.

2/ A/42/521-S/19085, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987, document S/19085, annex.

3/ A/47/277-S/24111; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992, document S/24111.